



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

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January 27, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM (JUNE 11, 2002 BOARD AGENDA, ITEM NO. 7) – ANNUAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Board Policy No. 3.050, this is to provide your Board with an annual review of the Foreign Consulate Identification Card Program (Program).

BACKGROUND

The Program was established to allow County departments to accept a foreign consulate identification card (FCIC) as a form of valid identification. An FCIC is used only for identification purposes. It is not considered proof of legal residence nor does it extend any benefits to the holder which would require legal residency.

On June 11, 2002, your Board authorized the County of Los Angeles to accept the Matricula Consular, an FCIC issued by the Consulate of Mexico, as a form of identification. The FCIC for the Consulate of Argentina was accepted into the Program on August 1, 2003, and the FCIC for the Consulate of Korea was accepted into the Program on May 19, 2006. The Chief Executive Office has delegated authority to approve acceptance of a consulate's FCIC upon notification to your Board if the FCIC meets the criteria as set forth in the Policy.

ANNUAL REVIEW

All County departments were surveyed to determine which departments were presented with FCICs in the course of their operations. The number of departments that have been

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presented with FCICs has increased from 13 departments in 2003 to 16 departments in 2008, followed by a slight decrease to 15 departments in 2009.

The attached provides information on the services obtained by FCIC holders, the frequency with which they were presented and, any operational issues reported by the departments presented with one or more of the eligible FCICs.

The following are highlights from the departments' responses:

- **Animal Care and Control** – FCICs were presented for animal adoptions; animal license purchases; animal relinquishment to a shelter facility; and return of impounded animals to owners.
- **Assessor** – FCICs were presented when requesting property information.
- **Child Support Services** – FCICs were presented consistent with requests for case closure; mistaken identify; interviews; and service of the Summons and Complaint. Frequency was estimated to be 125 or more per month.
- **Children and Family Services** – FCICs were presented for Live Scan background checks in placement of children with relatives and non-relative extended family members. They were also presented to the Special Immigration Status Unit; Adoptions (Home Study Approvals); and Independent Living Program. Frequency was estimated to be 25 per month for each of the Department's 18 offices.
- **Community Development Commission** – FCICs were presented in determination of eligibility for admission and continued occupancy to the public housing program by parents of minor U.S. citizens; determining initial and ongoing eligibility for assisted housing; conducting interviews or informal hearings for the Housing Choice Voucher Program; conducting employee field interviews for labor compliance; and when making restitution to employees.
- **Coroner** – FCICs were presented to establish identification of deceased persons; identify persons seeking to identify deceased persons or function as witnesses; identify participants in the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program; and establish ID/legal authority to take custody of personal effects of decedents. Frequency was estimated to be 7-14 times per month.
- **Health Services** – FCICs were presented for County hospitals' inpatient and outpatient services. FCICs were also presented at various Multi-service Ambulatory Care Centers; Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs); and other Health Centers. In terms of FCIC frequency, Rancho Los Amigos indicated 10 percent for their inpatient admission services, and 3 percent when processing

Medi-Cal applications. Other facilities did not have information regarding the amount of frequency. The department did encounter FCICs from El Salvador (18 percent) and Colombia (4 percent) at their El Monte CHC, which were not covered by Board Policy.

- **Office of Public Safety** – FCICs were presented during the course of law enforcement duties/activities, such as the issuance of citations. The Department indicated difficulty in ascertaining the validity of such cards.
- **Probation** – FCICs were presented infrequently for purposes of visiting and release of detained minors; adult intake; supervision; and investigation processes.
- **Public Library** – FCICs were presented when applying for library cards. During the past year, the Department issued 829 library cards to FCIC holders; almost all were using Mexican FCICs (one Argentine and one Korean).
- **Public Social Services** – FCICs were presented when applying for CalWORKS/Refugee; General Relief; Food Stamps; and Medi-Cal benefits. The Department has confirmed that the possession of a FCIC does not entitle the bearer to services for which he/she would otherwise be ineligible. Frequency was estimated to be 4,000 per month.
- **Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk** – FCICs were presented when applying for marriage licenses and accepting customer checks. Frequency was estimated to be 15 to 20 times per day.
- **Sheriff** – FCICs were presented during the course of law enforcement duties/activities. The Department indicated personnel had difficulty in determining the validity and authenticity of such cards, and recommended that they have access to the consulate databases via patrol vehicles' mobile digital terminals. However, the consulates are unable to share their databases due to issues of foreign policy and confidentiality. The consulates are cooperating with the County and are willing to assist in the verification of an FCIC that may be in question. The estimated response time to any inquires from the Department would be within 24 hours.
- **Treasurer and Tax Collector** – FCICs were presented for bidder registration at public auctions of tax defaulted property. Frequency was estimated to be less than 20 per year.

The following departments reported they were not presented with any of the eligible FCICs in 2009: Affirmative Action Compliance, Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Alternate Public Defender, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Chief

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Executive Office, Chief Information Office, Community and Senior Services, Consumer Affairs, County Counsel, District Attorney, Executive Office – Board of Supervisors, Fire, Human Resources, Internal Services, Mental Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, Public Defender, Public Health, Public Works, and Regional Planning.

Based on the operational issues identified by departments, this Office will continue to work with the consulates to strengthen the FCIC Program. Also, given the number of departments that have indicated an interest in refresher training, we will be working with the affected consulates to coordinate this training.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please have your staff contact Ellen Sandt at (213) 974-1186 or esandt@ceo.lacounty.gov or Martin Zimmerman at (213) 974-1326 or zimmerman@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:ES:MKZ
FC:KLG:pg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads

FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD – ANNUAL SURVEY 2009

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED FCICS AS A FORM OF PHOTO ID?			IF SO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHAT SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES WERE FCICS PRESENTED?	IF YOUR DEPT HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH FCICS, DOES YOUR DEPT. HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE AMOUNT OF USE?	PROBLEMS WITH ACCEPTING FCICS AS VALID PHOTO ID?				ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE POLICY?	DOES YOUR DEPT. NEED TRAINING?	
	MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA			MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA	NONE		YES	NO
Animal Care & Control	X			Animal adoptions; animal relinquishment to a shelter facility; and return of impounded animals to owners.	No. However, individual transactions have notations regarding type of ID utilized.				X	No	X	
Assessor	X			Requesting property information.	Three in 2009.				X	No	X	
Child Support Services	X	X	X	Requesting case closure; mistaken identity; interviews; and service of the Summons and Complaint.	Approximately 1,500 per year.				X	No	X	
Children & Family Services	X			Form of ID when performing Live Scan background checks for placement of children with relatives and non-relative extended family members; used by Special Immigration Status Unit; Adoptions (Home Study Approvals); and Independent Living Program.	Varies by office, averaging 25 per month for each of the 18 offices.	X			Expired FCICs have been an issue. There have been instances where altered FCICs have been rejected.	Department feels valid foreign passport is also a form of ID and should be accepted in lieu of an FCIC.	X	
Community Development Commission	X			Determination of eligibility for admission and continued occupancy to the public housing program by parents of minor U.S. citizens; determining initial and ongoing eligibility for assisted housing; conducting interviews or informal hearings for the Housing Choice Voucher Program; conducting employee field interviews for labor compliance; and when making restitution to employees.	Rarely used.				X	No		X
Coroner	X			Establish identification of deceased persons; identify persons seeking to identify deceased persons or function as witnesses; identify participants in the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program; and establish ID/legal authority to take custody of personal effects of decedents.	Frequency is estimated at 6-12 times per month in investigations and in the Identifications/Notifications Unit. The Personal Property Section estimates frequency at approximately 1-2 times per month.	X			Names appearing on FCICs are sometimes outdated – the person may have changed name upon entry to U.S.	One El Salvador consulate-type certificate presented. Dept. was also presented with Mexican voter ID Cards.	X	

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	MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA			MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA	NONE		YES	NO
Health Services	X	X	X	Mexican ID: Presented at LA County hospitals for inpatient and outpatient services; Multi-service Ambulatory Care Centers; Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs); and Health Centers (HCs); Patient Financial Screening and processing of Medi-Cal applications. Argentine ID: Presented at hospitals and CHCs Outpatient Clinic Services. Korean ID: Presented at Harbor/UCLA Outpatient Clinic and ER Services. Presented at other County CHCs, except for Mid Valley. Presented at LAC+USC MC ER Registration Area and Olive View MC Walk-in and Registration and Admissions.	Rancho Los Amigos was presented with approximately 10% of their Inpatient, admission services with FCICs and 3% when processing Medi-Cal applications. Other facilities did not have information regarding the amount of use.				X	El Monte CHC - approximately 18% of their patients were presented with El Salvador and 4% with Colombia Consulate IDs.	X	
Office of Public Safety	X			During the course of law enforcement duties/activities, i.e., citation issuance.	No.	X				No.	X	
Probation	X			During visiting and release of detained minors; adult intake, supervision, and investigation process.	No. FCICs are rarely presented.				X	No.		X
Public Library	X	X	X	Applying for library cards.	Mexican: Since July 2002, issued library cards to 7,315 people who presented Mexican FCICs. Dept. issued 827 cards last fiscal year. Customers with these cards borrowed 62,665 items last fiscal year. Argentine: Since August 2003, issued library cards to six people who presented Argentine FCICs. Dept. issued one new library card last fiscal year. Customers with these library cards borrowed 86 items last fiscal year. Korean: Since July 2008, issued library cards to four people who presented Korean FCICs. Dept. issued one new library card last fiscal year.				X	Annual survey allows libraries to review the program with the Community Library Managers.		X
Public Social Services	X	X	X	Applying for CalWORKs/ Refugee, General Relief, Food Stamps; and Medi-Cal benefits. Possession of a FCIC does not entitle the bearer to services for which he/she would otherwise be ineligible.	As of September 2009, 47,467 current DPSS participants (38,390 cases) presented the FCIC for identification purposes. This included all three types of FCICs.				X	No.	X	

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	MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA			MEXICO	ARGENTINA	S. KOREA	NONE		YES	NO
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk	X	X	X	Applying for marriage licenses and as identification when customers write checks.	An average of 15-20 a day.				X	No.	X	
Sheriff	X	X	X	During the course of law enforcement duties/activities for identification purposes.	Dept. does not formally track the number of Consulate ID cards presented during police contacts.	X	X	X		Department noted difficulty in determining the validity/authenticity of FCICs and request access to the consulate databases. However, the consulates are unable to share their databases due to issues of foreign policy and confidentiality, but are willing to assist in verification.	X	
Treasurer-Tax Collector	X		X	At bidder registration for the public auction of tax defaulted property.	Less than 20 per year.				X	No.		X

01/26/2010